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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,093	06/18/2001	F.C. Thomas Allnutt	031676.0247	7694

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EXAMINER

COOK, LISA V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1641	3

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/882,093	ALLNUTT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lisa V. Cook	1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I – claims 1-14 are drawn to a method for a specific binding assaying utilizing a detectable label fusion protein wherein binding characteristics are measured, classified in Class 436, subclass 500 for example.

Group II – claims 15-19 are drawn to a method for a specific binding assaying utilizing a detectable label fusion protein wherein biological effects such as enzyme interactions are measured, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1 for example.

Group III – claims 20-36 are drawn to a non-covalent complex comprising a 1st binding member, a fusion protein containing a phycobiliprotein domain, and a specific domain corresponding to a 2nd member of the specific binding pair, classified in class 500, subclass 300 and classified in class 500, subclass 350 for example.

Group IV – claims 37-39 are drawn to an isolated purified fusion protein of at least 2000 Daltons molecular weight and a phycobiliprotein subunit, classified in class 500, subclass 300 and classified in class 500, subclass 350 for example.

Group V – claims 40, 41, and 43 are drawn to methods of producing a fusion protein containing a phycobiliprotein domain, classified in class 435, subclass 68.1 and classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.

Group VI – claim 42 and 44-46 are drawn to an oligonucleotides having nucleic acid binding domains and its utility, classified in class 536, subclass 23.4 and classified in class 435, subclass 91.1 for example.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Each of the method Groups (I, II, and V) of the presently claimed invention are unrelated.

Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different operations, functions, and effects. Group I is a method directed to specific binding pair complex formation, Group II is a method of measuring biological effects such as enzyme binding, cleavage, or activation, while Group V is drawn to fusion protein production. Therein each of the methods are diverse having different steps and utilize different reagents.

Inventions III, IV and VI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different composition inventions of Group III, Group IV, and Group VI are patentably distinct. Group III is drawn to non-covalently bound compositions; Group IV is drawn to molecular weight and phycobiliprotein subunit complexes (reading on both non covalent and covalent bound structure), while Group VI is directed to complexes requiring nucleic acid domains. Therein each of the structures of inventions III, IV, and VI are diverse and distinct.

Inventions (III, IV, VI) and (I, II) are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the materially different products of inventions (III, IV, or VI) can be practiced in either of the materially different processes of inventions I or II.

Inventions V and (III, IV, and VI) are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the process as claimed can be used to make either of the materially different products of Group III, Group IV, or Group VI.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, recognized divergent subject matter and because the search required for each invention is not substantially coextensive with the search required for the remaining invention, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Please note that the classifications in the restriction are illustrative only and do **not** represent all the classes and subclasses which must be searched for each invention; nor is the search limited to issued US patents, but rather includes published foreign patents and applications as well as literature search, which in this case would be divergent for each of the claimed inventions. While searches would be expected to overlap, there is no reason to expect the searches to be coextensive.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Art Unit: 1641

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 1641 Fax number is (703) 308-4242, which is able to receive transmissions 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa V. Cook whose telephone number is (703) 305-0808. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00AM – 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le, can be reached on (703) 305-3399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Lisa V. Cook

Lisa V. Cook

Art Unit 1641

CM1-7B17

(703) 305-0808

July 30, 2002

Christopher L. Chin

CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1600 / 1641